

Application Serial No: 10/530,949
Responsive to the Office Action mailed on: November 15, 2007

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on November 15, 2007. Claims 1, 3, 6 and 9 are amended. Claim 1 is amended to include the features of claim 4. Claim 3 is amended editorially. Claim 6 is amended to include some features of claim 9. Claim 9 is amended to remove features added into claim 6. Claim 4 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added. Claims 1-3 and 5-10 are pending.

Specification Objections:

The title is objected to as being non-descriptive. The title is amended to be more descriptive. Withdrawal of this objection is requested.

§103 Rejections:

Claims 1-10 are rejected as being unpatentable over Neter (US Patent No. 6,888,568) in view of Sugiki (US Patent No. 5,990,948). This rejection is traversed.

Claim 1 is directed to an area image sensor that requires, among other features, a plurality of address lines each connected to image pick-up elements of a respective one of a plurality of element rows. Claim 1 further requires an address line selection circuit connected to the address lines and configured to select plural ones of the address lines simultaneously.

The combination of Neter and Sugiki does not teach or suggest these features. The rejection asserts that Figure 4 and column 9, line 34-column 10, line 14 of Neter teaches an address line selection circuit that selects plural ones of the address lines simultaneously. However, nowhere does Neter teach or suggest that the row readout control circuit (180) selects plural ones of the readout lines (186) simultaneously, as required by the address line selection circuit of claim 1. Sugiki does not overcome these deficiencies of Neter. For at least these reasons claim 1 is not suggested by the combination of Neter and Sugiki and should be allowed. Claims 2, 3 and 5 depend from claim 1 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons.

Claim 6 is directed to an area image sensor that requires, among other features, a plurality of address lines each of which is allocated to a respective one of a plurality of

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rows of a plurality of image pick-up elements and connected to all the image pick-up elements of the row. Claim 6 further requires an address line selection circuit for selecting plural ones of the address lines simultaneously.

The combination of Neter and Sugiki does not teach or suggest these features. The rejection asserts that Figure 4 and column 9, line 34-column 10, line 14 of Neter teaches an address line selection circuit that selects plural ones of the address lines simultaneously. However, nowhere does Neter teach or suggest that the row readout control circuit (180) selects plural ones of the readout lines (186) simultaneously, as required by the address line selection circuit of claim 6. Sugiki does not overcome these deficiencies of Neter. For at least these reasons claim 6 is not suggested by the combination of Neter and Sugiki and should be allowed. Claims 7-10 depend from claim 1 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons.

Conclusion:

Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1-3 and 5-10 are in condition for allowance. If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Douglas P. Mueller (Reg. No. 30,300), at (612) 455-3804.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: May 15, 2008